



WRITING A GRANT PROPOSAL

Ramune Midttveit, forskerskolen i samfunnsmedisin, 22.02.18

AWARENESS OF REQUIREMENTS TO GET A PERMANENT POSITION

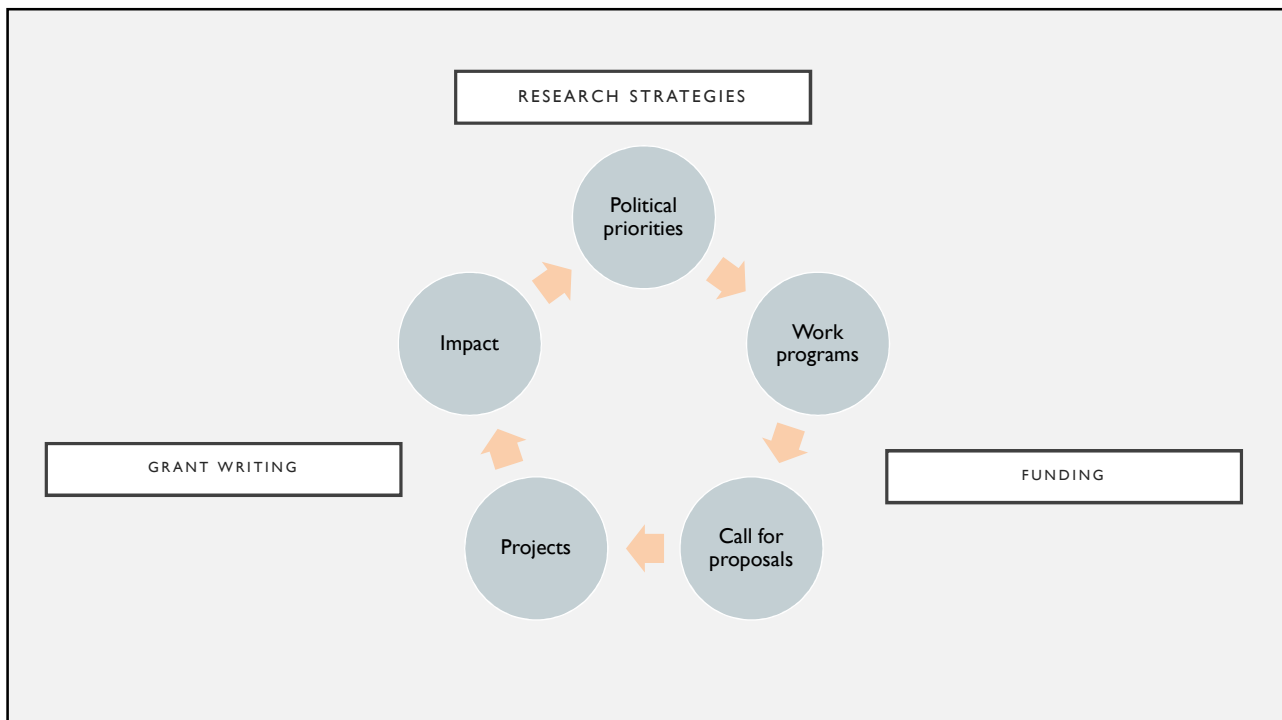
When hiring Associate Professor or Professor at UiB:

- Research profile
- Total number of published articles
- Number of articles as 1. and 2. author
- Number of articles as senior author
- Articles independent of your PhD supervisor
- Supervision of Masters' students and PhD candidates
- Teaching
- Mobility/internationalization
- Ability to gain funding

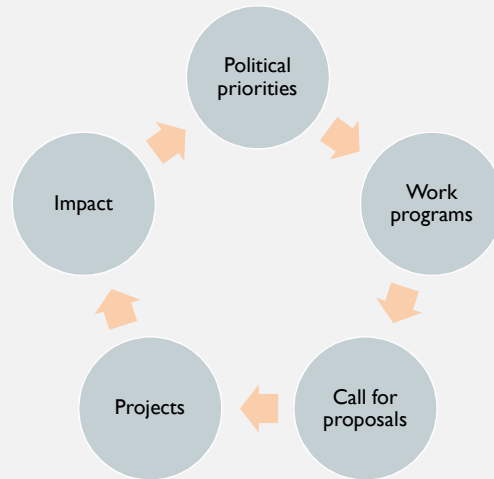
YOUR FUNDING TRACK RECORD

Attracting funding indicates:

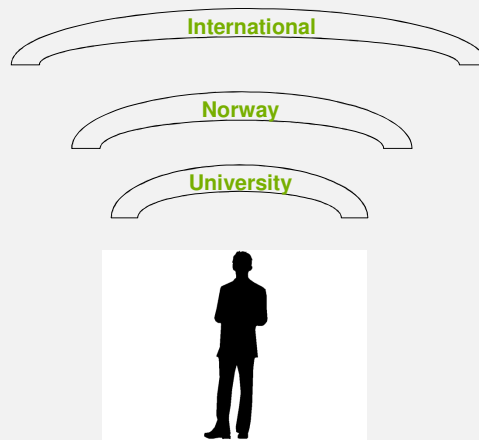
- quality of your research
- sound financial investment
- active career development



RESEARCH STRATEGIES



Before you set sail on your research journey you should know how the wind blows. If you know what's waiting for you over the horizon, you can prepare for it. Before it happens.



Europe 2020 Strategy

Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Key Drives of the Strategy

- Low Growth rate – Europe's growth rate is below that of our competitors
- Unemployment – Only 69% of adults 20 – 64 are employed
- An aging European population – from 1 million over 60 years per year before year 2000 to more than 2 million per year after 2007



University of Bergen [priority areas](#) 2016-2022

Three strategic areas: Marine research, Climate and energy transitions and Global challenges.

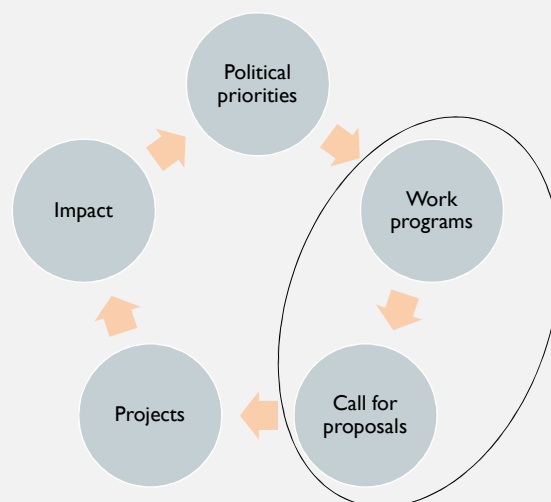
Key Drives of research on [Global Challenges](#)

- Migration
- Health
- Inequality

RESEARCH CAREER

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZnzRZAJBwU>

FUNDING



TYPES OF RESEARCH FUNDING

- **Project grants**
- **Fellowships – postdoc and early career**
- **Travel grants**
- **Networking grant**
- Visiting fellowships
- Knowledge exchange fellowships
- Industrial partnership awards
- Commercialisation/enterprise awards
- Conference grants
- Open access publication funds
- Outreach funding

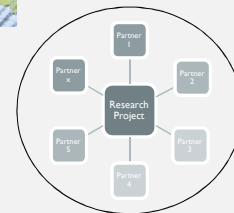
Mobility opportunities



Fellowships



Project grants



TRAVEL GRANTS

- Funding to pay for/subsidise participation in professional and scholarly activities
 - conferences (attend/present)
 - workshops & training activities
 - visits to other groups/labs/institutions
- Covers travel expenses: flights, accommodation, living costs
- Short-term visits
- Available from a variety of sources – journals, charitable trusts, societies, departments

NETWORKING GRANTS

- Support activities to develop collaborations - networking events; visits; projects; courses
- Disciplinary; interdisciplinary; theme/challenge based; industry & public-sector
- Vary in size and scope
- Available from a variety of sources - departments, charitable trusts, societies, national research councils

EARLY CAREER FELLOWSHIPS

- Focus on **project and individual** for ca.1-3 yrs
- Aimed at *early stage researchers* (defined differently) with potential to be field leaders
- Facilitate research independence – development from postdoc to PI but with *supervision*
- Facilitate mobility – evidence of developing international profile/ moving away from alma mater
- Available from national, EU & international funders

PROJECT GRANTS

- Small to very large funds for short to 5 year + projects
- Emphasis on **project** rather than the **individual** applying (in contrast to fellowships)
- Not all project grants allow postdocs to be PI
- Check: can be PI / Co-I?
- If you can't be either you could still get useful experience helping to write an application/ as named researcher

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SUCCEED?

Apply for the correct calls

Apply correctly for the calls

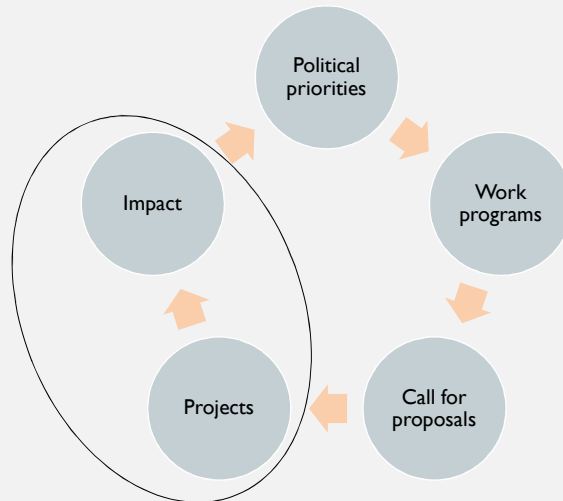
BEFORE APPLYING – ANALYSE THE CALL

- Call documents
- Evaluation criteria
- Program plan
- Earlier funded projects (e.g. [project bank NFR](#))

WHAT IS H2020?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CimJI88c4fE>

GRANT WRITING



GRANT WRITING



Planning



Start early:

- Success requires pilot data
- Success requires collaboration

- Do you have a specific project idea? Transform your vision into a project idea.
- What is the problem and why is it important?
- Are there limitations in current knowledge?
- Why is your idea better?
- How is it new, unique, different?
- What will it contribute and who will benefit from it?



State of the art

Problem you wish to solve

Preparing



Prepare a One Page Proposal

STANDARD PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

How to prepare a One Page Proposal

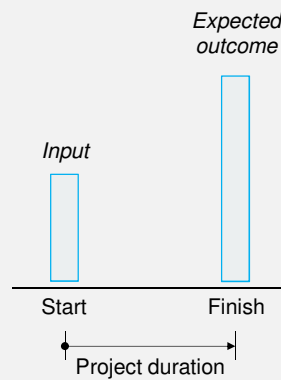
Excellence	A. Title and Acronym
	B. Objective of the proposal
	C. Background to the proposal (5 key questions)
Impact	D. Expected Deliverables and Users of the results
	E. Phases of the work (simple list)
Implementation	F. Organisations involved and their roles in the proposed work (list)
	G. Expected costs and duration of the work

C. Background to the proposal

5 Key Questions:

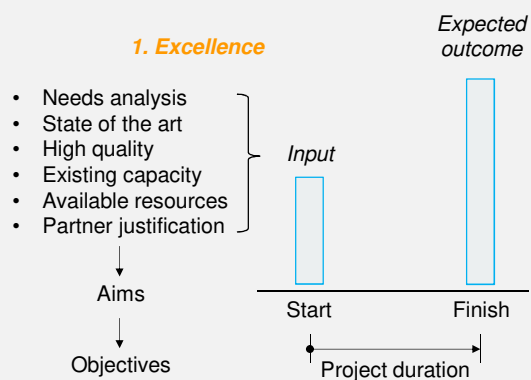
1. Why bother (What problem are you trying to solve?)
2. Is it a Norwegian/European priority (Could it be solved at Institutional level?)
3. Is the solution already available (Product, service, technology transfer)?
4. Why now? (What would happen if this research was not completed now?)
5. Why you? (Do you have the best consortium to do this work?)

Project proposal



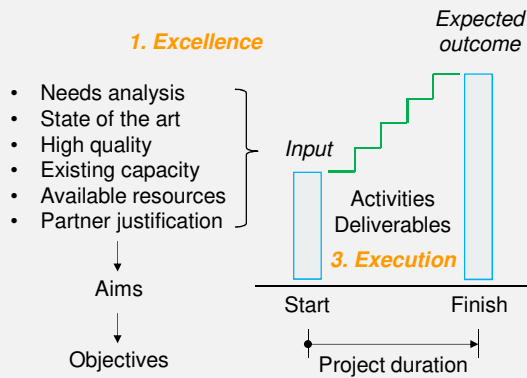
The quality, originality, innovative aspects, significance and credibility of the research to be conducted will remain the primary criterion for funding.

Project proposal



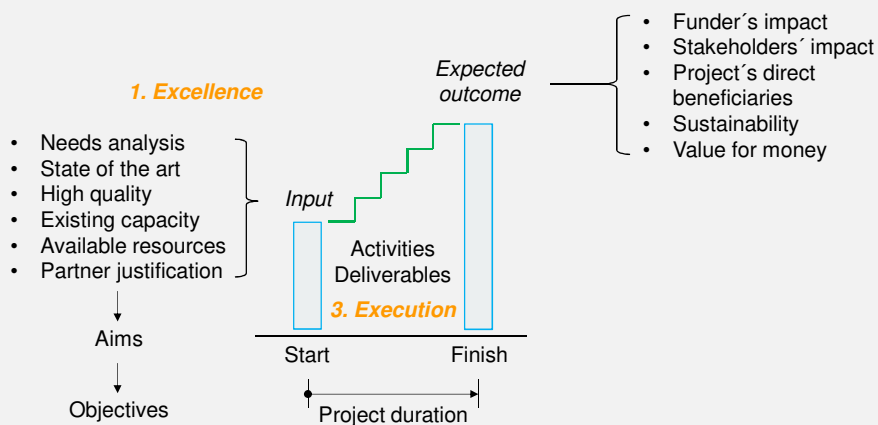
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Project proposal



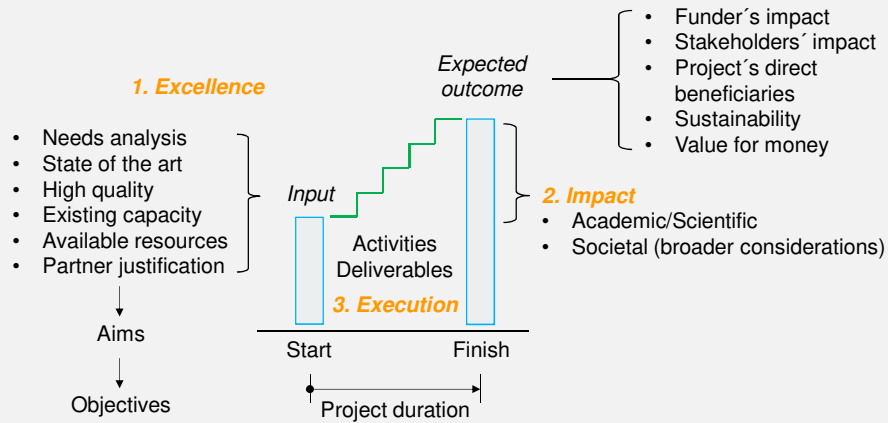
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Project proposal



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Project proposal

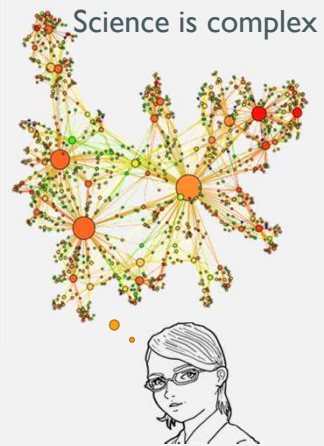


The quality, originality, innovative aspects, significance and credibility of the research to be conducted will remain the primary criterion for funding.

Impact, impact and impact.

Make sure that the reader cannot forget **your** proposal.

Writing



Writing is linear

Abstract

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Background

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Approach

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Academic writing

Researcher-centered:

Scholarly passion

Past oriented:

Work you have done

Descriptive:

Explaining to reader

Impersonal:

Objective, dispassionate

Specialized terminology:

«Insider jargon»

Thesis, theme, theory:

World of ideas

Grant writing

Sponsor-centered:

Service attitude

Future oriented:

Work you wish to do

Convincing:

«Sell» the reader

Personal:

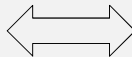
Convey excitement

Accesible language:

Broad audience

Project, activities, outcomes:

World of action



Some simple language rules

Use direct sentences and avoid conditional terms

- **Don't write:** Results A and B would be delivered by the project
- **Do write:** The project will deliver results A and B

Use simple structures and active tense

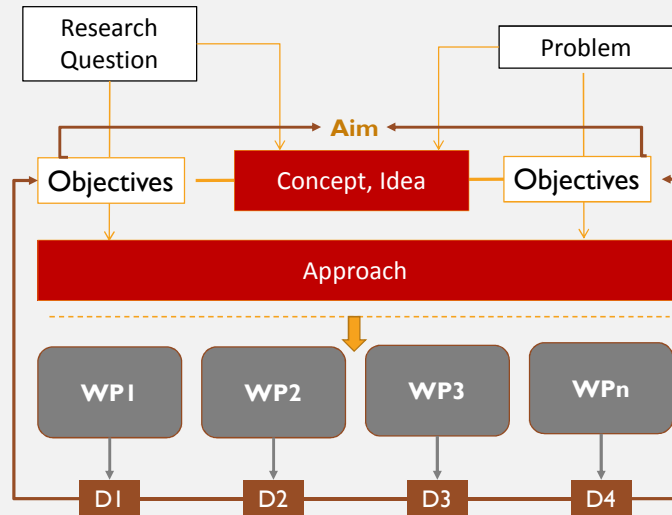
- **Don't write:** Based on the outcomes of the pilot, driven by the end-users who will test the solution, an evaluation report will be prepared by the consortium
- **Do write:** The consortium will prepare a user-driven evaluation report about pilot

Avoid long sentences

- If you find a sentence stretching over more than about three lines, try to split it into multiple sentences

- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+h2020&qvvt=youtube+h2020&view=detail&mid=501C596AB6CBE51B8D80501C596AB6CBE51B8D80&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Project Breakdown



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Universitetet i Bergen

BUDGETING IN EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

- Start budgeting early!
- Involve your local financial officer from the beginning
- Use the budget templates available (H2020, NFR).
- Be aware that different funding schemes have different rules (e.g. eligible costs) - some are more complex than others
- Make a realistic budget. Don't think about the grant limit - think "what will it cost to complete the work described in the proposal?"
- Total eligible costs often exceed the funding limit of the scheme you are applying to
- It is important to reveal any *own contribution* for the project and plan with the Department who will cover these costs

WHY DO RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS GET REJECTED

- Most funding processed are highly competitive / Not enough money for everyone to go around
⇒ In purely statistical terms, the rejection is the most likely outcome.
- Competitiveness: evaluators need reasons not to fund proposals ⇒ Get them excited!
- CV, track record ⇒ Not the right person to conduct the project / Not the logical continuation of the work you have been doing.
- The research problem is not really a priority or the impact is not so great.
- Design of the study not easy to understand, not concrete enough.
- Promises not delivered in the project:
 - Claims that there is a gap in knowledge but already addressed in some ways.
 - Claims of novelty or innovation in your research methodologies when people have done something similar.
- Project too ambitious/over-promising, too complex, poor feasibility.
- Budget not consistent with the scope/scale of the study and costs
⇒ Clearly explain and justify each item.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Write in an accessible way that can be understood by a diverse group of readers.
- “Take the reader by the hand” ⇒ **Educate** the reader.
- Do not work to fill the 10 pages! Work to get your ideas across! ⇒ **Convince** the reader (remember to write the proposal for the evaluator(s)).
- Sell your idea in the opening paragraph.
- Make sure the *Impact* and *Implementation* sections are relevant to the described *Excellence* section.
- Create a logical link between objectives, workpackages and deliverables.
- Divide the work in manageable pieces.
- Pinpoint the social/societal benefits.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- Start early – give your project time to mature and develop.
- Read successful grants.
- Ask colleagues in your field for comments on the hypothesis, objectives and approach.
- Involve research advisors as early as possible – ideally you should have time to discuss comments with the advisor.
- Identify potential user groups and start engaging them.
- Read the entire call.
- Read the evaluation criteria carefully.
- Answer all points in the template.
- Remember that there will be an administrative evaluation step which will look at the relevance and strategic aspects of the proposal.

Research advisors at the Faculty of Medicine- our services

Group visits – tailored to your research field and the needs of your research group

Guide your proposal design

1:1 meetings to discuss relevant calls

Workshops

Dedicated advisors – provide individual support and advice, all year round



Career advice for early stage researchers

Information about and advice on implementation of crosscutting issues into your project:
RRI
Gender
Innovation
User involvement
Etc.

Proposal review for national and international funding sources - from draft till submission stage

<https://www.uib.no/en/med/I12772/external-funding-opportunities>

SOURCES

- BOA, UiB
- Joe Gorman, SINTEF
- Sean McCarthy, Hyperion
- Gabriella Lovasz, Europa media

THANK YOU!

PREPARING FOR A STAY ABROAD

Lars Prestegarden, specialist in Dermatology, post doc abroad-stay:

1. Find a host laboratory
2. Get an invitation letter
3. Inform your department
4. Apply for the stipend
5. Inform NAV International
6. Inform Tax Office
7. VISA
8. Housing
9. Daycare/school

Apply for additional funding!

https://w2.uib.no/filearchive/centre-for-int-mobility_folder_web.pdf
<https://www.uib.no/en/ir#>

When a deadline comes too close.. This is how a project is completed.

